

ATHENS RADIO CLUB MINUTES

January 7, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by President Jess Hickey.

In attendance 20 members.

Ankirskiy, Alex, KN4GTB – Vice President
Ashworth, Dick WB4HXF
Broom, Tom K4THB
Crowell, Jeff KD4AOZ
Francis, Paul KG4HCX
Geeter, Nola KG4OVO -Treasurer
Hallman, Gerald KM4AAA
Hawkins, Jim KF4RX
Herrin, Bob KE4JLL- Public Service
Hickey, Jesse N4JAH
Johnson, Bruce P. KX4AZ
Koehler, Phil AF4TQ
Lannoye, Lee WA9AOE
McCook, Kathleen KN4IJM -Secretary
McKinnon, Howell KM4ZXR
Ortman, Bernie N6UBO
Reeves, James KF4AQO - **VE Coordinator and Repeater Trustee**
Rickard, Dakotah KN4TBF
Strange, Sam KN4SPF
Waters, Rick WA4ERS – Past-President/ Hams Helping Other Hams

Treasurer Report as of 1/7/20 Meeting, the bank balance was \$934.35.

In December, the executive committee was told of an anonymous benefactor who was willing to donate up to \$2,500 towards the purchase of a new repeater, no strings attached. The executive committee agreed to accept the offer. A new repeater and controller were ordered at the end of December for the total amount of \$1,774.95. After the January meeting, the \$2,500.00 donation will be received and reimbursement for the payments for the new equipment will be made. This will leave a balance of \$725.05 to be used towards repairing the old repeater, as determined by the executive committee in a specially called December meeting.-- Nola Geeter KG4OVO

Skywarn: No activity

Past-President Rick Waters WA4ERS, reported that the Annual Holiday party held Saturday, 7 December 2019 11:30am to 1:30pm at Locos was attended by 30 members and guests.

Repeater Update:

The KD4QHB Athens Radio Club repeater committee reported it is ordering a new repeater: a BridgeCom BVC-50V. It will have many new features and even better reliability, all thanks to an anonymous donor. Jeff Crowell will be Repeater Consultant. (Rick Waters)

James Reeves, repeater Trustee, sent a report via the Athens Radio Club list about the Repeater

emergency:

Here is a condensed version of who was there and what we did.

Attendees: Head of Security, Head Engineer, & Maintenance guy, Ed Rollor, N4ZRA; me, KF4AQO; Jeff Crowell, KD4AOZ; and Alex, KN4GTB.

We disassembled the components, removed the top/shields and completed an internal inspection looking for evidences of heat, smoke, melting, etc. No problems were found. The hospital representatives were convinced that the problems were not caused by any ARC equipment. They excused themselves.

While we were there we removed a cabinet, straightened the club repeater, rerouted some coax and general cleanup stuff and reinstalled the equipment.

The final step involved testing the equipment.

Several of us were on the repeater involved in a round table QSO. During that time Ed discovered the problem was the power supply.

Ham crams & testing sessions are on February 19 and March 4, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. until around 3:30 or 4:00 p.m. at Environmental Health Services, 189 Paradise Boulevard, Athens, GA 30607 (behind Terrapin on Newton Bridge Road). VEs are especially needed beginning around 1:30 p.m.

Also, there will be a retest for the ham cram attendees on April 7th at the ARC's regular exam session.

James Reeves, KF4AQO, showed a spread sheet for ARES net coordinators and alternate coordinators and urged members to volunteer by filling in names or contacting him.

Field Days. The group discussed Field Day planning and Bob Herrin KE4JLL sent a follow-up summary that is included here:

We had a good discussion on Field Days – both Winter and Summer. Some questions came up about how it works. It doesn't just happen.

Successful Field Days require planning well in advance. It doesn't work to just say "Everybody show up and bring stuff"! It takes coordination and assigning people with specific responsibilities. More and more clubs who are successful (however they define success) are moving to an incident command structure. All that means is that you have different people responsible for different activities – e.g., someone to make sure coax is available, someone to make sure we have emergency power, someone to make sure we have RADIOS. You may think this is trivial, but I do remember one Field Day several years ago when no one brought coax!

There was discussion about involving the community. A key to that is making sure the community knows that something is going on! Several things contribute to that: newspaper articles, announcements on local radio stations, social media, etc. And someone needs to be in charge of that. We need to have a site that is accessible to the public! And we need to have someone who agrees to be the host at the Field Day site – to welcome visitors, make them feel comfortable, and give them information about what and why we are doing what we are doing. And we want to get them on the air!

There does need to be a planning group. I won't call it a committee, but the Exec

Committee can't do everything. And I won't try to do a full tutorial here about what it takes, but here are links where you can see more of what is needed.

Winter Field Day: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>

Summer Field Day: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Here you can find the rules, history, and in the case of the ARRL site, YouTube videos of clubs who uploaded what they did for Field Day. We can have a great Field Day this year if everyone gets involved. A lot of people doing a little bit is much better than a few people doing a lot. And when you break the tasks into manageable pieces. Looking forward to a great Winter Field Day at the Institute for Disaster Management, and a great Summer Field Day wherever the club decides to set up!-- .—Bob Herrin KE4JLL

Annual ARES State Convention offered by **Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security** will be held **January 11, 2020**. The registration link is **here**:

<https://training.gema.ga.gov/TRS/courseDesc.do?sourcePage=courseSearch&cofId=35177>

Rick Waters WA4ERS moved and Dick Ashworth WB4HXF seconded that presidents will not pay dues during terms of office. Passed by voice vote.

Door Prizes drawing.

Future Dates:

- ARES State Convention January 11, 2020
- **January 25-26, 2020: WINTER FIELD DAY. <https://www.winterfieldday.com/>**
- Next regular meeting-Tuesday, February 4, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, (GMT-05:00) America/New York. Institute for Disaster Management, Health Sciences Campus, 105 Bowstrom Rd., Athens, GA 30602.
- **February 4, 2020: 6:30p FCC Exam Session, 7:30 Athens Radio Club Meeting - Topic: "nanoVNA (Vector Network Analyzer)"**
- **March 3, 2020: 7:30p Athens Radio Club Meeting - Topic: "Adventures in WSPR Mode (<10mW)"**

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Submitted by Kathleen McCook KN4IJM, Secretary